

**CALIFORNIA CITRUS PEST AND DISEASE PREVENTION PROGRAM  
OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, April 11, 2018

The regular meeting of the Operations Subcommittee was called to order at 9:00a.m. on April 11, 2018 in Riverside, California by Chairman Keith Watkins.

**Committee Members Present:**

Zac Greene	Kevin Severns*	Keith Watkins
Link Leavens*		

**CRB Staff:**

Rick Dunn	Gary Schulz	Melinda Klein*
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**Interested Parties:**

Erin Betts*	Magally Luque-Williams*	Cressida Silvers*
James Bogginsworth	David Morgan*	Carla Thomas*
Tina Galindo	Keith Okasaki*	Scosha Wright*
Victoria Hornbaker	Curtis Pate	Judy Zaninovich
Sara Khalid	Sylvie Robillard	Sandra Zwaal*
Luci Kumagai*	Nawal Sharma*	

**\* Participated via telephone/WebEx**

**Opening Comments**

Keith Watkins welcomed the Subcommittee, staff, and members of the public participating in person and online. It was noted that there was a quorum for the meeting.

**Approval of Minutes**

Keith noted that the March 7, 2018 Operations Subcommittee meeting minutes had been reviewed and posted prior to the meeting, but that they were included in the packet for reference.

**Regional ACP Update**

Bob Atkins was not available as he was on vacation. The grower liaisons in attendance provide brief updates for their areas.

Judy Zaninovich reported that there have not been any ACP detections in Kern County for the last 4 to 5 weeks. Growers are putting on an ACP treatment with the thrips treatments during petal fall.

Sylvie Robillard reported that there have not been any detections in Fresno in commercial groves, there have been a few finds in urban areas.

Sandra Zwaal reported that in Ventura, growers are in the middle of the spring uncoordinated treatments. The Task Force met with Dr. Beth Grafton-Cardwell and have established the need for a fourth treatment in the fall on the perimeter of the groves. On April 26<sup>th</sup> they will be holding a grower meeting. Fall treatment will begin around the end of July. In San Bernardino growers are currently doing an uncoordinated spring treatment. They will be having a May 3<sup>rd</sup> grower meeting.

Curtis Pate reported that growers conducted a coordinated treatment, but due to high winds there were some delays. He noted that they are not having any trap finds.

Erin Betts noted that growers are putting on an ACP treatment with the thrips treatments during petal fall in Southern Tulare

Cressida Silvers reported that the Santa Barbara growers completed the winter ACP treatments and the percentage of acreage treated is being finalized, but it is expected to be similar to previous areawide treatments percentages. She is asking growers to get more engaged and scout their groves and treat based on detections. She reported that in San Luis Obispo (SLO), there have not been any detections, but she is concerned about the Nipomo area, because of the injunction on residential treatments. The SLO task force will be meeting during the first week of June.

## **Strategic Priority 1 - Find and Eradicate HLB**

### **HLB Survey Activities**

Magally Luque-Williams gave an update for the Statewide Risk Survey and HLB activities in Orange, San Bernardino and Riverside Counties.

#### Risk Survey

The Program has completed all of cycle 2 survey except Los Angeles County, which is 29 percent complete; Orange County, which is 85 percent complete; Riverside County, which is 92 percent complete; San Bernardino County, which is 89 percent complete and San Diego County, which is 48 percent complete. She reported that survey will be completed soon. The program surveyed 43,769 sites and collected 17,103 ACP samples and 9,588 plant samples.

#### Anaheim

The Anaheim HLB response area has increased to 29,255 properties, the Program has completed surveys at 11,973 properties, collecting 5,735 plant samples and 3,255 ACP samples. 6,668 properties are considered no-host. 15,185 trees have been treated on 10,416 properties and there are currently 207 treatment refusals. 193 HLB positive trees have been removed in Anaheim.

#### La Habra

There have not been any new detections in La Habra. There has only been one HLB positive tree detected and removed.

#### Fullerton

There was a CLas positive ACP sample collected in Fullerton, which expanded the treatment area. The total number of properties in the Fullerton HLB response area is 3,021, of these 1,892 are mandatory response properties and 1,129 are voluntary. The Program has completed survey at 1,906 properties, collecting 759 plant samples and 304 ACP samples. 1,161 properties are considered no-host. 1,793 trees have been treated on 716 properties and there are currently 11 treatment refusals. There was one HLB positive tree removed.

#### Garden Grove

The total number of properties in the Garden Grove HLB response area are 13,941, the program has completed survey at 267 properties, collecting 323 plant samples and 104 ACP samples. 63 properties are considered no-host. 518 trees have been treated. There has been 114 HLB positive trees removed.

#### Santa Ana

The total number of properties in the Santa Ana HLB response area are 5,948, the program has completed survey at 469 properties, collecting 317 plant samples and 121 ACP samples. 158 properties are considered no-host. 434 trees have been treated. There has been 3 HLB positive trees removed.

#### Westminster

The total number of properties in the Westminster HLB response area are 3,580, the program has completed survey at 257 properties, collecting 235 plant samples and 142 ACP samples. 607 trees have been treated on 1,688 properties. There has been 9 HLB positive trees removed.

#### Riverside

There have not been any new detections in Riverside. There has only been three HLB positive trees detected and removed.

#### San Bernardino

The total number of properties in the San Bernardino HLB response area are 1,718, the program has completed survey at 1,186 properties, collecting 374 plant samples and 132 ACP samples. 721 properties are considered no-host. 1,399 trees have been treated. This area is a voluntary response to a CLas positive ACP detection, no HLB positive trees have been detected so far.

#### US/Mexico Border

The HLB border survey is ongoing in Imperial and San Diego Counties. The winter survey is complete in both Counties. In Imperial County 252 sites were surveyed; 1 ACP sample and 237 plant samples were collected. In San Diego County 108 sites were surveyed; 25 ACP sample and 99 plant samples were collected. The spring survey is 23 percent complete in Imperial County, with 25 sites surveyed and 1 ACP sample and 24 plant samples collected. In San Diego County, the spring survey is 59 percent complete with 198 sites being surveyed and 25 ACP samples collected and 9 plant samples collected.

There are currently 88,738 parcels in the HLB treatment areas, of those 71,626 are mandatory and 17,112 are voluntary.

Tina Galindo gave an update for the Los Angeles HLB activities.

#### Hacienda Heights

No additional HLB detections have occurred in Hacienda Heights. Only 2 HLB positive trees have been detected and removed. The cluster survey has been suspended, while the Program optimizes the risk survey with Dr. Gottwald.

#### San Gabriel

The cluster survey is on hold in San Gabriel due to staff being moved to conduct delimitation surveys. There have not been any new HLB detections in San Gabriel. There have been 61 trees detected and removed.

#### Cerritos

There have not been any new detections in Cerritos. There has only been two HLB positive tree detected and removed.

#### La Puente

There have not been any new detections in La Puente. There has only been one CLas positive ACP sample collected and no HLB positive trees have been detected.

#### Rosemead

The Program has surveyed 778 of the 2,874 properties in the Rosemead area and collected 426 plant samples and 166 ACP samples. 286 properties are no-host. Treatment began on January 23, 2018.

#### Norwalk

The Program has surveyed 1, of the 2,740,232 properties in the Norwalk area and collected 362 plant samples and 83 ACP samples. 802 properties are no-host. Treatment was completed on March 8, 2018.

#### Pico Rivera

The Program has surveyed 4,651 of the 6,363 properties in the Pico Rivera HLB area and collected 2,397 plant samples and 656 ACP samples. There are 2,227 no-host properties. There are 27 expansions, treatment is ongoing in expansion areas 21-25 and areas 26 and 27 are pending treatment. There are 2 trees pending removal in

#### Whittier

The total number of properties in the Whittier HLB response area are 5,415, the program has completed survey at 3,079 properties, collecting 1,273 plant samples and 108 ACP samples. 1,581 properties are considered no-host. There has been 71 HLB positive trees removed.

Tina mentioned that the Program continues to support sampling for several of the EDT labs and for follow-up samples on inconclusive results.

#### **Laboratory Report**

Lucita Kumagai reported that the lab has processed 23,328 plant samples and 18,156 ACP samples in the last three months. Of the 18,156 ACP samples, CDFA has processed 1,159, CRB has processed 11,320, U of A has processed 3,042 and the CPDP has processed 2,644 samples. She also reported on the total HLB positive trees in each area; 226 in Los Angeles County, 317 in Orange County and 3 in Riverside County.

### **Strategic Priority 2 - Control ACP Movement and Enforce Regulations**

#### **Regulatory Activity Update**

##### Citrus Nursery Stock Regulatory Update

Nawal Sharma provided a regulatory update on the control of ACP movement on citrus nursery stock (CNS). He noted that with the new Regional quarantine zones for nursery stock, movement of nursery stock from zone 3 (Generally infested with ACP) to zone 2 and 1 has practically been eliminated because no outdoor grown nursery stock can move outside of zone 3. Only CNS grown in USDA/APHIS approved structures is allowed to be moved from zone 3 to zone 2 and 1. ACP has never been found any of the APHIS approved structures during 30-day visual inspections and or in traps. All production nurseries have signed a new compliance agreement to assure that they understand the new protocol of not moving outdoor CNS to zone 2 or 1. CNS from zone 2 to zone 3 is permitted to move (Low to High).

##### HLB Regulatory Update

Currently, only the Citrus Clonal Protection Program (CCPP) is approved inside the HLB quarantine area. There are no citrus plants for sale in 674 square miles HLB quarantine area in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties. So, there is a very low risk of any potentially HLB infected tree moving out of the quarantine area. 2,132 citrus plants are on a 2-year holding period at 4 CDFA approved screen houses (3 Orange and 1 in Los Angeles). One nursery has already completed 2 years in September 2017. HLB tests were conducted, and all 122 plants were negative for HLB. 94 of the 122 trees are still for sale.

During first quarter of this year (January to March 2018), 141 hold notices (97 in Orange and 44 in Los Angeles) have been issued at HLB find site properties for the 433 remaining host trees at these 141 residential properties. 4,987 citrus plants have been voluntarily destroyed at 18 nurseries (16 in Orange and 2 in San Bernardino). 22 growers were placed under compliance (21 in Riverside and 1 in San Bernardino). 3 packing houses are also under compliance (2 inside the HLB quarantine, Blue Banner and CA Citrus Coop. and 1 outside the HLB quarantine CCH Packing). All growers were able to harvest and move citrus fruit from the HLB quarantine area. 995 bins were sent to CCH after spray and move and field cleaning. Harvest has been completed for the season. Additionally, 33 certified farmers' markets and 12 swap meets are regularly being monitored for compliance.

### **Regional Quarantine Implementation**

Keith Okasaki presented the total number of growers, packers, and transporter license plates in each county. The number of transporter license plates issued is a more appropriate metric when comparing regulatory activities than is the number of signed compliance agreements. He also presented the amount of inspections performed and the number of Notice of Violations (NOVs) and Notice of Proposed Actions (NOPAs) issued in each county from October 2017 through January 2018 (with the exception of a few counties). He noted that the Program is reviewing the NOPAs to help ensure the regulation is enforced uniformly across the state and to the Program's expectations. Three counties (Tulare, San Diego, and Riverside) have been conducting the bulk of the regulatory work. All counties were notified in January that the inspection numbers would be posted online to hold counties more accountable. January inspection numbers increased and the Program hopes to see the trend continue. Work plans have been solicited to the counties and returned for the upcoming FY 2018-19.

### **Strategic Priority 3 – ACP Control/Suppression**

#### **Southern California Areawide Treatment Update**

Tina reported that all CDFA Southern California areawide treatment activities have ceased.

#### **Central Valley and Northern California Areawide Treatment Update**

There are not any active treatments. The Program is removing delimitation traps to meet the new trapping protocol. Cassandra has met with the Counties that are engaged in delimitation trapping and provided them with direction on the new protocol. She noted that the trap reduction in Madera has been completed.

#### **Biocontrol Update**

Dr. David Morgan gave an update on biocontrol. The program has released 475,951 parasitoids so far this year and from 2011 through present they have released 9,168,968 parasitoids. The Program will continue to focus releases in the same strategy as last year, with the focus beginning near the HLB core areas, around the US/Mexico border, along transportation corridors and a small amount into new areas. The Program will cease rearing *Diaphoroclytus*, they are expensive to raise and it has been difficult to see establishment.

Cressida mentioned the need for biocontrol release in San Luis Obispo and David said he would contact the County Ag Commissioner.

### **Strategic Priority 4 – Improve Data Technology, Analysis and Sharing**

#### **DATOC Report**

Rick Dunn gave a report on Dr. Neil McRoberts behalf, noting that the DATOC is working on a cost benefit analysis for looking at changes to operations. They are also doing a project to look at HLB positive trees and look for exposure over time to determine how quickly a tree is infected in the HLB core area. He also mentioned that CRB is conducting a recruitment to fill Sandy's position.

### **Data Management Report**

Rick Dunn reported that Robert Johnson is continuing to assist with Statewide Citrus Layer maintenance. Rick is supporting Psyllid Management Area group activities and regional ACP/HLB Task Force groups in various counties with mapping support services. Completed a major update of the Kern County Citrus Layer is in progress. He is receiving confidential data and using that to produce static maps. He continues to support the commercial grove trapping/survey program. They are also providing maps the Grower Liaisons. He has also been working on the relocation of grove traps, to move them away from the GWSS grove traps. They have removed approximately 2,200 traps and have made 140 new placements. He anticipates the remaining traps will be placed by May.

Gary Schulz gave a brief update on the HLB detector dogs. The company that was partnering on the project has decided to not continue the work and the 19 dogs have been moved to a USDA canine facility. There is a working group that has been put together to see if some of the dogs can be brought to California. They are working on mapping out a path forward.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m. The next Operations meeting will be held on May 2, 2018.